

**Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling**  
Minutes of the meeting held on February 6, 2014  
Lincoln State Office Building  
301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln NE 68508, Room B Lower Level

Commissioners present for roll call: Chairman Ed Hoffman, Vice-Chair Teri Teutsch, Co-Secretary Mark Canada, Mathew Anselmo, Marla Bruder, Paul Leckband, Terry Scoville

Commissioners absent: Co-Secretary Janell Holt, Susan Lutz

**Welcome & Introduction.** Ed Hoffman called the meeting to order at 9:35 am and thanked the audience for attending the Legislative breakfast and the participation of members and volunteers. He also thanked Deb Hammond for all the extra work she does to help the commission. Hoffman asked the audience members and commission members to introduce themselves. Commission roll call was taken.

**Item 1. Review & Approval of Agenda:**

Ed Hoffman reviewed the agenda items.

**Action - Roll call was taken for approval of the agenda. Voting yes – Hoffman, Teutsch, Canada, Leckband, Scoville, Anselmo and Bruder.**

**Item 3. RFP for Workforce Development:**

Hoffman talked about using the services of Bellevue University to develop online training and introduced Dave Hoppe to comment.

Hoppe stated that 72 hours of online training will be developed. His team is currently working to put all the content together to develop the online classes. Hoppe said the priority is to create a training course of the highest quality. NCCG (Nebraska Commission on Compulsive Gambling) is also aligning the training with the national requirements. He said the president of Bellevue was very excited to be a part of this project. The course setup includes someone who will be available 24 hours if a student has questions on the training. After 60 hours, Bellevue will offer a gambling specialty certificate to the trainee. In Nebraska, a citizen will pay \$4 per CEU hour. So, if you're a provider and want to train someone in your office, it's very affordable. The completion date for the course is June 1st.

Jerry Bauerkemper mentioned that there is only one other company in the US that offers this type of training and it's much more expensive. Bauerkemper confirmed that this online training course will be submitted for approval nationally so that it can be offered across the country. Also, currently licensed providers will be used as teachers and they will be paid for their time.

Hoffman clarified that the design contract is between NCCG & Bellevue University. NCCG will own the intellectual property and NCCG will contract with the Nebraska Council on Problem Gambling to provide the training.

Bauerkemper said that core classes maybe held at Bellevue University and they will be recorded. So persons who are ready to take the training now can go to Bellevue to take those courses and then the recorded sessions will be used for the online training. Hoffman asked if the online course required any

face-to-face training. Bauerkemper said no. None of the online classes would be live but there would be live assistance by skilled providers that NCCG has contracted with.

Teutch asked how the classes would be marketed and would there be a time frame to complete the course? Hoppe said the student could get a certificate after 60 hours – Nebraska adds another 12 required hours before being fully licensed. Bauerkemper said there would be a certain span of time required to complete the course. He mentioned that the student still needs to do 200 hours of supervised training after completing the courses, and then must pass a national test.

Hoffman was concerned about the availability of this training piece to future commissions since NCPG is funding the development. It was agreed that this matter would need to be addressed in the contract between the commission and NCCG.

Bauerkemper presented the RFP proposal for selecting a qualified contractor to provide Problem Gambling Workforce Development Services (Attachment A) and reviewed the decisions that the commission must act on.

Bauerkemper talked about two tests available for licensing – NAADAC and Castle. He said DHHS was using five core points in Castle. NAADAC contains 12 core points and NAADAC is acknowledged nationally. NAADAC is in the RFP now, but the commission can change that to Castle if they wish. Harlan Vogel talked about the difference between the two tests. He felt that it would be a plus if Nebraska would align with national standards and use NAADAC. Bauerkemper also recommended NAADAC, but Castle was the required test used previously in Nebraska. Since NAADAC is accepted nationally, it would be easier for a licensed provider moving into Nebraska to transfer their license. The national standard is 60 hours. Nebraska added an additional 12 – 72 total. But the supervised training hour requirement in Nebraska is less.

Bauerkemper said that the commission also needs to act on the total funding for the contract. He recommended that the commission consider a 2-year contract. Hoffman suggested adding “as mutually agreed upon by all parties” after the \$120,000 figure in I. Scope of the Request for Proposal, paragraph 2, page 1. After the commission votes on the maximum number of core items and the dollar amount, Bauerkemper will release the document on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

There was discussion on NAADAC versus Castle. Hoffman recommended NAADAC, since it was nationally recognized and supported by the current providers. He asked if any of the commissioners had comments – none were given.

Even though the appropriation leg has not been acted on, Hoffman said the commission has to move forward with this process because of the time line required. There were no questions about the funding amount.

Teri Teutsch asked if the contract would all be done electronically – Bauerkemper said yes. There would be no paper process because of the tight timeline. DAS will approve the RFP and then it will be placed on the Commission’s website for distribution to interested parties.

Baerkemper reminded the commissioners that, if they don't like the proposals received, they can start over. Then the RFP process begins again. Hoffman wanted it to be in the record that the commission has directed Bauerkemper to create the RFP and the commission has the final say with contracting.

**Action - Ed Hoffman made the motion to approve the RFD with the NAADAC 12 core steps, approval of the contract amount, and inclusions and changes for typos and inclusion of language to page 1 paragraph 2. Paul Leckband seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Hoffman, Teutsch, Canada, Leckband, Scoville, Anselmo and Bruder voted yes. The motion passed.**

**Item 2. Review & Approval of Prior Minutes:**

Ed Hoffman presented the minutes for approval. There were no comments.

**Action- Teri Teutsch made the motion to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2013, meeting. Paul Leckband seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Hoffman, Teutsch, Canada, Leckband, Scoville, Anselmo and Bruder voted yes. The motion passed.**

**Morning Break - 11:00 – 11:15 a.m.**

**Item 4. Certificate process:**

Jerry Bauerkemper explained the requirements for certifying gambling counselors and gave an overview of the document that was developed by the certification subcommittee (Attachment B). He mentioned that, after the commission approves the certification document, they need to appoint another subcommittee to handle the process of certifying.

Matt Anselmo asked who would handle the enforcement of this certification, like doing a background check of the individual applying for certification. Bauerkemper said the subcommittee would do that work and then bring their recommendations to the commission for approval. For example, if someone complained about a counselor, the complaint would go to the commission who would then give it to the committee for investigation. After their research, the committee would submit a recommendation to the commission for action.

Ed Hoffman asked the commission members if they felt the steps for certification, as outlined in the provided document, was adequate. Paul Leckband asked about the criteria for prior education requirements. There was much discussion on education requirements, particularly about requiring an associates or bachelor degree. Terry Scoville said he was in favor of keeping it at the associates level – Ed Hoffman agreed.

**Action - Ed Hoffman made the motion to approve the certification document in its entirety; specifically the language on page 5 that allows an associates degree for prior education. Teri Teutsch seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Hoffman, Teutsch, Canada, Leckband, Scoville, Anselmo and Bruder voted yes. The motion passed.**

**Item 5. Snitily Carr Report:**

Mike Losee, Kelly Anderson, and Connie VanNostrin presented information on their development of the Play it Safe website, creation of a provider website, and develop a prevention campaign plan.

They need to know where the commission wants to have the Play it safe program and the provider website hosted. NebraskaProblemGambling.org would be the new URL.

The NCPG site was presented, which features an easy questionnaire to determine if the viewer has a gambling problem and what happens when someone calls the 24 hour help line.

Details on a proposed prevention campaign was also presented. Marketing ads were shown featuring problem gambling among youth.

Mike Losee said he understood an RFP needs to go forward to contract for the prevention campaign and Snitily Carr plans to submit an application.

Jerry Bauerkemper said Snitily Carr is ready to roll out the new website and they recommended Information Analytics as the preferred host for \$400 per year. The commission needs to give Bauerkemper permission to enter into that contract for a host. He recommended that the commission wait till after the legislative decision is made on appropriations and then create an RFP for the prevention campaign. Bauerkemper stated that said the process won't take long.

Ed Hoffman said there are three pieces the commission needs to act on – vote on the web host, approve the Play It Safe website, and move forward with the RFP process. Bauerkemper said the RFP could be addressed at the May meeting.

**Action - Ed Hoffman made the motion to approve the allocation of \$400 to host the Play It Safe website using information Analytics. Marla Bruder seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Hoffman, Teutsch, Canada, Leckband, Scoville, Anselmo and Bruder voted yes. The motion passed.**

**Ed Hoffman made the motion to approve the Play It Safe website. Mark Canada seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Hoffman, Teutsch, Canada, Leckband, Scoville, Anselmo and Bruder voted yes. The motion passed.**

**The director, Jerry Bauerkemper, was instructed to move forward with an RFP to be presented at the May meeting. All commissioners agreed to this action.**

#### **Item 6. Budget review and review of client services:**

Jerry Bauerkemper presented a billing overview for year-to-date (Attachment C). In regard to the providers that have not drawn any dollars from their contracts, Bauerkemper recommended that they be asked to start providing services or withdraw. He reviewed each provider's contract usage and prevention action. He commented that those providers who were doing prevention work were seeing an increase in client numbers.

Bauerkemper supplied a review and projection for treatment contracts (Attachment D). He is recommending that additional dollars be approved for the providers that need contract increases. He also recommended that the three providers that are not doing any service work have their contracts terminated.

Ed Hoffman confirmed that the prevention piece of these contracts is extremely important. Bauerkemper said prevention work does two-fold – it helps people understand gambling and it helps people recognize that they have a problem. He said that, next year, prevention must be an active part of the contract and a highly required action.

Bauerkemper suggested that the commission agree to authorize a total number of dollars for increasing contracts and then he will negotiate with the providers and come back to the commission with contract changes.

Mike Sullivan told the commission that, at first, he didn't quite understand how the prevention piece worked. But now that he understands and knows he will be reimbursed for his prevention work, he is excited to plan for it and will move forward with prevention activities. He also mentioned that it was very helpful to know that there was a possibility for an increase in funds if the additional work is there. That helps him plan his income dollars for the year.

**Action – Paul Leckband made the motion to approve the additional contract funds of \$212,150. Terry Scoville seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Hoffman, Teutsch, Canada, Leckband, Scoville, Anselmo and Bruder voted yes. The motion passed.**

**Lunch break** - 12:45 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.

**Item 7. Review of Data collection services:**

Rhonda Spence talked to the commission on the development of the GAP data collection system. She stated that she used an Excel worksheet set-up and created a program for intake and discharge data. The subcommittee met and gave her direction on changes and now the program is completed. So the next step will be to implement the database. Ed Hoffman thanked Rhonda for all her hard work in creating the data base.

Bauerkemper recommended that the database be relayed to the providers immediately so they can begin importing client information as of July 1, 2013.

He said that, if another data system is created for the commission, this current database has all the information that the commission requires.

Teri Teutsch wanted to know how this information is protected. Bauerkemper said each provider will have their own password and the system will be on the state network system, so it will be password protected. Only the director will have access to all the data and then it will be queried before information goes on to Juan Paulo Ramirez, because he doesn't need to have access to personal information like social security numbers and date of birth.

**Action - Teri Teutsch made the motion to approve the Excel data collection system as presented. Terry Scoville seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Hoffman, Teutsch, Canada, Leckband, Scoville, Anselmo and Bruder voted yes. The motion passed.**

**Item 8. Proposal for services by Ron Felton:**

Jerry Bauerkemper introduced Ron Felton to the commission and provided some background information. Since there is no provider service available in the North Platte, Lexington, McCook, Ogallala and Sidney areas, Felton is submitting a contract proposal to the commission for providing service in those areas .

Felton said he has been involved in providing gambling treatment for the last 20 years. He currently lives in the northwestern part of the state and sees the needs for problem gambling services. He would like to start with an office in North Platte and build from there. He said it was vital to begin

prevention and outreach services immediately to get the word out that help is available. He's willing to make the commitment to do this service full time and do the work necessary to build services in the western area of Nebraska.

Bauerkemper said Ron's work plan is solid. 80% prevention-20% treatment the first fiscal year; 50% prevention-50% treatment the next year; third year 20-80. That is a sound plan to follow to build up a client base in a new area.

**Action - Ed Hoffman made the motion to approve funding Ron Felton's contract in the amount of \$23,480 with a cap of 80% for prevention use. Mark Canada seconded the motion.**

**Item 9. Interim Director search:**

**Action – Teri Teutsch made the motion, seconded by Paul Leckband, to enter into executive session. Roll call vote – Hoffman, Teutsch, Canada, Leckband, Scoville, Anselmo and Bruder voted yes. The motion passed.**

The executive session was entered into at 2:00 pm.

**Action - Ed Hoffman made the motion, seconded by Teri Teutsch, to move out of executive session. Roll call vote – Hoffman, Teutsch, Canada, Leckband, Scoville, Anselmo and Bruder voted yes. The motion passed.**

The meeting resumed at 2:40 p.m.

**Item 10. Consultant:**

Ed Hoffman recommended that the commission ask Jerry Bauerkemper to stay on as a consultant to provide direction to the new executive director - especially for the certification program. Bauerkemper said that he would agree to act as consultant.

**Action - Teri Teutsch made the motion, seconded by Paul Leckband, to retain Jerry Bauerkemper as consultant to the executive director. Roll call vote – Hoffman, Teutsch, Canada, Leckband, Scoville, Anselmo and Bruder voted yes. The motion passed.**

Ed Hoffman said that the next meeting will be in Omaha, the date to be May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, at 9:00 am. The prevention program RFP will be presented, an update on the certification program, an update of the online training program, and legislative funding will be on the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

**Next Meeting – May 2, 2014**